

stares at Macbeth. It's Banquo!
Blood drips off his accusing face.

MACBETH (terrified): Which of you have done this?

LORDS: What, my good lord?

MACBETH (to ghost): Don't look at me like that!

ANGUS: Maybe we should leave.

LADY M: No, no. Macbeth often has these fits. They are nothing to worry about.

MACBETH: It used to be that when you killed someone, he stayed dead!

LADY M (to Macbeth, hissing): Sit down, and be quiet!

ROSS: What is he looking at?

MACBETH: How can you all remain so calm? Can't you see it?

LADY M: He grows worse and worse.

Everyone, please leave. Now.

N4: The lords leave the hall, disturbed by what they have seen and heard. Macbeth barely notices them go.

MACBETH: Blood will have blood.

Banquo is taking revenge on me. Everyone is against me. Why do you think Macduff failed to come to our feast?

LADY M: You need to sleep.

MACBETH (to himself): I must talk to the witches again. I'll do whatever it takes to hold on to my power!

SCENE 8

N1: That night, in a cave on the heath, the three witches work on a spell.

WITCHES (together): Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

N2: Macbeth approaches the cave.

WITCH 1: By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes.

MACBETH: I need some answers.

WITCH 1: Speak.

WITCH 2: Demand.

WITCH 3: We'll answer.

N3: The witches conjure evil spirits

out of the smoky cauldron to answer Macbeth's questions.

SPIRIT 1: Macbeth, beware Macduff!

MACBETH: I knew it!

SPIRIT 2: Macbeth will never be defeated until the trees of the forest attack his castle.

MACBETH (relieved): That's impossible. Trees can't walk! Wait, I have more questions!

N4: The spirits and witches disappear. Macbeth runs out of the cave and into Lennox.

MACBETH: Did you see the witches?

LENNOX (disgusted): No, my lord. I just came to tell you that Macduff has gone to England, to join Malcolm.

MACBETH (furious): Why did I wait? I should have killed him while I had the chance. I'll burn down his castle!

SCENE 9

N1: After his second visit with the witches, Macbeth becomes more violent than ever. Scotland is in chaos.

N2: In England, Macduff tells Duncan's son Malcolm how his people suffer under Macbeth.

MACDUFF: Each new morn, new widows howl, new orphans cry.

MALCOLM (upset): Our country sinks... it weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash is added to her wounds.

N3: Malcolm plans to rescue Scotland from Macbeth's evil grip. He raises an army, and they march towards Macbeth's castle.

SCENE 10

N4: Night falls. At the castle Lady Macbeth's maid and a doctor wait outside the Queen's bedroom.

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Lady Macbeth has been sleepwalking every night. Look! Here she comes.

Look how she rubs her hands.

PLAY POINT:

Shakespeare wrote 37 plays, but he never published them. Seven years after he died, Shakespeare's friends made sure his plays were printed.

Out, damned spot! Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him? What, will these hands ne'er be clean?

MAID (whispering): Lady Macbeth has been sleepwalking every night. Here she comes.

DOCTOR: Look how she rubs her hands.

MAID: She thinks she's washing them.

LADY M: Out, damned spot! Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him? What, will these hands ne'er be clean?

DOCTOR (shocked): Did you hear that? She has a heavy heart!

MAID: Heaven knows what she has known.

LADY M: Here's the smell of the blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand!

DOCTOR: I can't cure an infected mind. Just keep an eye on her. And let's not tell anyone what we heard tonight.

Malcolm's army storms the castle. Finally, Macduff finds Macbeth.

I don't want to have to kill you, Macduff.

I have no words; my voice is in my sword.

Victorious, Malcolm and his lords enter the great hall of Macbeth's castle and meet Macduff.

The fake King Macbeth is dead. Scotland is free! Let's hear it for King Malcolm!

Hail, King of Scotland!

You helped me defeat this dead butcher and his fiend-like Queen. I thank you, and invite you all to see me crowned King.

SCENE 11

N1: A few days pass. Lords Lennox and Angus decide they can no longer support Macbeth. They gather their soldiers and join forces with Malcolm.

N2: The two armies assemble at the foot of the hill below Macbeth's castle.

N3: Malcolm looks up toward the castle.

MALCOLM: What's the tyrant doing?

LENNOX: He's preparing to defend his castle. Some say he's mad.

ANGUS: Now does he feel his secret murders sticking to his hands.

MACDUFF (grimly): I hope I'm the one who makes him pay for them.

N4: Malcolm prepares to attack.

MALCOLM (yelling to his soldiers): Each man, cut a branch and carry it in front of you. Disguised

SAY IT! disguised — diss-GIZD

as trees, we'll sneak up the hill and surprise Macbeth!

SCENE 12

N1: In Macbeth's castle, everyone is nervous, except Macbeth.

MACBETH: I've nothing to fear until the forest attacks my castle. Isn't that what the witches said?

N2: One of Macbeth's servants stands watch at a window.

SERVANT (shaking): There are ten thousand soldiers down there!

MACBETH: Pull yourself together. Give me my armor. Was that a scream?

N3: The doctor brings bad news.

DOCTOR: The Queen has killed herself.

MACBETH: I cannot cry about her death. All life is meaningless. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

SERVANT: I thought I saw... The wood began to move.

MACBETH: Liar!

N4: Macbeth looks outside.

MACBETH (to himself):

Curse those double-talking witches! I may be doomed, but I'll never surrender!

PLAY POINT:

The plaid skirts worn by Scotsmen are called kilts. Each family, or clan, has its own plaid, called tartan. The Macbeth tartan has a blue background.

SCENE 13

N1: Malcolm's army storms the castle. Soon all

Macbeth's men surrender to Malcolm, and Macbeth battles on, alone.

MACBETH: I'll fight to the death!

N2: Finally, Macduff finds Macbeth.

MACDUFF: Turn and face me, monster!

MACBETH: I don't want to have to kill you, Macduff.

MACDUFF: I have no words; my voice is in my sword.

MACBETH: I will not yield, to kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet. So come on, Macduff, show me what you're made of!

N3: Macbeth and Macduff raise their swords and charge at each other.

SCENE 14

N4: Malcolm, Lennox, Angus and Ross enter the great hall of Macbeth's castle.

ROSS: We won! And we're all still alive.

MALCOLM: But where's Macduff?

N1: Macduff walks in, holding Macbeth's head.

MACDUFF: Behold, the fake king Macbeth is dead. Scotland is free! Let's hear it for King Malcolm!

LORDS (together): Hail, King of Scotland!

MALCOLM: You helped me defeat this dead butcher and his fiend-like Queen. I invite you all to see me crowned King!

ALL: Hurray! ■